(Research in Basic and Applied Sciences)" and "Women Scientists Scheme-B (Research in Societal Programmes)" since its inception in the year 2003.

National Biotechnology Development strategy

3201. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had brought out a draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to change the rules and set up a single High Powered Regulatory Authority to provide for a faster and more efficient clearance for all biotechnology products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Department of Biotechnology has prepared a draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy. The Draft has been released and placed on the web site of the Department of biotechnology for comments. The draft strategy addresses cross cutting issues related to Biotechnology in the areas of human resource development, infrastructure development, promotion of innovation and industry, biotechnology parks, regulatory mechanisms and public communication and participation. In addition sectoral road maps have also been included in the areas of agriculture and food biotechnology, medical biotechnology, bioresources, environment, industry, bio-engineering and nano-biotechnology and bioinformatics. Specific strategic actions in each area have been proposed.

(c) and (d) In the draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy it is proposed to establish a single National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority with separate divisions for agriculture products/transgenic crops, pharmaceuticals/drugs and industrial product; and transgenic food/feed and transgenic animal/aquaculture. It is suggested that the authority be governed by an independent administrative structure with a common chairman. The inter-ministerial group would evolve suitable proposals for consideration of the government.